

Remarks

The Examiner has required an election in the above-identified application as follows:

1. Group I, Claims 1 – 8 and 15-20, drawn to a method for forming a composite product, classified in class 156, subclass 181; and
2. Group II, Claims 9 - 14, drawn to an apparatus for forming a composite product, classified in class 156, subclass 433.

Thus, the 20 claims pending in this application have been separated into two separate groups. Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, Group I, claims 1 – 8 and 15 - 20 for examination purposes only.

Applicants respectfully traverse on the grounds that examination of all of the claims would not pose an undue burden on the Examiner. According to section 803 of the Manual of Patent and Examining Procedure, “[i]f the search and examination of all the claims in an application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine them on the merits, even though they include claims to independent or distinct inventions.” (*See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure*, Patent Publishing, LLC, Eighth Ed., Rev. 3, August 2005). The outstanding restriction requirement identifies only two subclasses (*i.e.*, 156/181 and 156/433) that would be required to treat all the claims on the merits. Both Group I and Group II fall with class 156. There are only 20 claims in this application, and searching the 6 claims classified by the Examiner into Group II would not pose a serious burden. Accordingly, Applicants submit that it would not pose an undue burden on the Examiner to examine all of the 20 claims pending in the subject application.

Conclusion

In light of the above, Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance and therefore request favorable consideration.

If any points remain in issue which the Office feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Office is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0568 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Margaret S. Millikin
Registration No. 38,969

Owens Corning
Patent Department, Bldg. 11
2790 Columbus Road
Granville, Ohio 43023
(740) 321-5359